

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the legacy of perseverance that has become the hallmark of the African American experience in the struggle for equality.

In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us all that liberty and freedom are precious birthrights of all Americans which must be jealously guarded and preserved for future generations.

As it takes on a more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing.

FAMILY SEPARATION

(Ms. ROSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, the images we are seeing of children crying alone, calling out for their mothers and fathers, is absolutely heart-wrenching.

Right now, innocent children are being detained at our border, and they are going through unthinkable and life-altering trauma as a result of the Trump administration's cruel decision to separate migrant families.

Let me be crystal clear: There is no law requiring border agents to separate migrant children from their parents, yet this administration has chosen to implement this horrendous policy and deliberately ignore public outcry by refusing to put an end to this madness. They are playing political games instead of doing what is right and true to our American values.

This heartless and inhumane behavior should not have to require action from Congress to be changed. But with the President pledging to continue his heartless policy, we are compelled to act. That is why I am helping introduce legislation that puts an end to this despicable policy and keeps families together, which I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BAILEY SCHWEITZER

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to remember the life of Bailey Schweitzer.

Bailey was a kid at heart who loved playing around at her father's speedway racetrack in Bakersfield, California.

Bailey was at the Route 91 Harvest festival on October 1 in Las Vegas, attending the concert with her mother and other friends. She had a smile that could light up the room and was capable of making everyone laugh.

Bailey was a natural born leader and an amazing aunt to her brother Dakota's two kids. Bailey is remembered as being a master at being friends to everyday people and to everyone she met.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to Bailey Schweitzer's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

FAMILY SEPARATION

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, in late May of this year, a 5-year-old boy named Jose and his father arrived in El Paso, Texas. Together, they had braved the dangerous trek from Honduras to the United States in search of freedom from gang violence, poverty, and hardship.

They came as asylum seekers and put themselves at the mercy of American laws. Instead, they were treated like criminals.

They journeyed across the continent for a life free of violence and a life free of crime. It is a human right enshrined in international law.

When Jose arrived at the border, he was ripped away from his father and detained. Neither one of them were told when, or if, they would see each other again.

Jose was assigned to a host family he had never met, taken to a house he had never lived in, and was treated like a prisoner in the land of freedom.

According to his host family, every night he placed a handwritten picture of his family under his pillow, holding out hope that they would someday be reunited.

This is the picture that he drew.

This is immoral, illegal, and an un-American practice that will not go unchallenged.

□ 1930

THE WORLD IS WATCHING

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, America is looking on, indeed the world is looking on with horror as they see pictures of children in cages.

First it was denied. They were saying, No, we weren't separating families. Then they said, Well, we are not putting them in cages.

And now America and the world sees the truth. And it is up to the President. He could change this tonight if he wanted to. I think we have to ask ourselves: Why won't he? Why won't this Congress do something?

The world is watching. We are losing our moral authority as we speak. I beg the President and the Speaker of the House and others in this Congress to stop this now.

WHAT HAS AMERICA BECOME?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, America, my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, this young girl needs our help. She is crying out for her parents. She needs our help. She needs our help now. She is crying for her mother and her father, who have been taken from her.

This is the picture of America today. This is a picture of our values as Americans. 350 million of us are responsible for this young girl crying for her mother and her father, who have been taken from her.

They came to America, her mother came to America because she feared that in her home country, they would be harmed. They came to America seeking life. This young girl is crying out for our help, and she is not alone.

She is joined by this young girl, who has been separated from her parents, and she is alone in a building foreign to her. She is crying out to America for our basic humanity, for our basic morality, and she is not alone.

She is not alone, and neither are these young children in a cage in America.

What have we become? What has America become that we would take children and their parents who have come here seeking refuge, we take the parents away and we put the children in a cage? What has America become that we would allow this to happen?

Whatever the reason is for their arrival at our border, we know this about them: they came here seeking the very best of America, the promise of this country, and we put them in a cage.

What has America become that we would allow this to happen, that the man in the highest office of this Nation would make it the policy of America to cage children; that the man who occupies the highest office in this land would make it the policy of this Nation, a Nation whose reputation was one of humanity, of concern, and fundamental morality, that the man who occupies the highest office in this land would put in place policies that would make this young girl cry for her parents?

Is this the America that we want? Is this the America that we have come to be? Is this the America who has lost its moral compass, who believes that you could take this young girl or these young men and women, these children, and hold them hostage?

The ransom is a border wall. Is that where we are as Americans that the

price for a border wall is this? Is that where we are as Americans? Is that what we have become?

We can't debate here on the justice or the value of a policy without taking a young child away from its parents and putting them in a cage so that we could somehow use them as ransom for a public policy.

This is not America. This is not what we should expect from the man who occupies the highest office in this land.

Have no doubt about it: this is not about a law. This is about a policy directed from the White House that says a person crossing into this country, whatever their reason; asylum seekers trying to get away from the horrors of the country from which they came, coming to America seeking the benefit of this great country, that they are a criminal and therefore must be separated from their children. Something is terribly, terribly wrong here.

In America, we need to cry out, just as these children are crying out, just as this young girl is crying out. We need to cry out in moral outrage and say to the President, Stop it. Stop it now. It is wrong. It is immoral. And it is un-American. Stop it.

One phone call is all it takes. Change the policy.

There is much to be said. We could talk about the laws, we could talk about how we could change it, we could talk about border control, we could talk about walls, we could talk about new judges, we could talk about lawyers, but at the bottom of this issue is a common issue of morality.

Back away for a moment. Think about your childhood. Think about that moment when you had your mother's hand and you were 4 years old and you were walking in the mall. Think back to your childhood and think of that moment, and there is probably not a one of us who hasn't experienced this, when that hand wasn't there, and we looked around in panic, and we had lost our mother and we were alone and we were in a strange place. Is there one of us anywhere that at some moment in our early life reached out and mother's hand was not there?

Mr. President, your policies did that to this young woman and 2,300 others, crying out for their mother.

This is not American. This is not right. It is immoral and it is un-American at its very heart and its very foundation.

Mr. Speaker, joining me tonight are some of my colleagues who share the same concern. My colleague from the district next to me has joined me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY).

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. He is a neighbor and a friend and a colleague, and I appreciate his passion tonight, and I think I am going to share that a little bit.

Mr. Speaker, I normally focus on policy. I came here to try to get things done for the people who sent me here to Washington.

You know, I don't bark every time this President sends out an outrageous tweet or makes a ridiculous statement. But when something happens that is absolutely despicable, I am morally obligated to call the President out and hold him publicly accountable for his actions.

Ordering young children to be separated from their parents in order to send a message and then blaming Democrats for the situation, this rises to the level of complete immoral behavior.

Desperate families come to this country fleeing for their very lives. Our history has been to give them shelter.

My wife's grandfather came from Mexico as a political refugee when he and his family were marked for death. America gave him refuge and he was able to bring his two-year-old daughter, my mother-in-law, to safety.

□ 1945

I built a life and raised a family here. Now I have children and grandchildren of my own. What would it be like to have them torn from my arms if I tried to provide them safety?

The American Conference of Catholic Bishops is very clear. It is immoral, and it is wrong. There is no greater moral obligation that we have than to care for the children of this world. Clearly, ripping children from the arms of their parents is completely unacceptable.

This President is too much of a coward to take responsibility for his actions. The President has power to stop this abhorrent policy right now. We, in Congress, will fight to keep families together.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GARAMENDI for his passion and his profound words on this very difficult subject, not only for Members of the United States Congress, but also for many Americans across the country.

I had an opportunity yesterday, along with several other Members of Congress, including BENNIE THOMPSON, the ranking Democratic Member on the Homeland Security Committee; SHEILA JACKSON LEE; FREDERICA WILSON; BEN RAY LUJÁN; and FILEMON VELA, to visit two sites where these young kids are being kept in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas—one of them, Casa Padre; the other one, Casa Presidente.

When we were there, I and a few other Members of Congress met two young children who were being held without their parents. They were separated from their parents.

One of them was named Roger, an 8-month-old boy—8 months old. The administrators told us that his mother is actually deceased, and they believe

that he had come to the country with his sister, but she was nowhere to be found.

The other was a young girl named Leah. She was 1 year old, and she was separated from her parents.

These are among the youngest victims of this brutal policy of President Trump in separating young children from their parents.

Most Americans believe that we can enforce our immigration laws and still respect human dignity and human rights. But in going down the road that this President has taken us, he is taking us down a road where we are losing our own humanity. He is taking us down a road that is reminiscent of the worst episodes and moral failures in the country's history, the things that, as Americans, we deeply regret.

Also, we have been asked by many Americans over the last few weeks in particular a common question as Members of Congress: "What are you doing to stop this?" We are pushing legislation. We are out on the streets. We are organizing rallies. We are doing every single thing that we can to change this, to end it.

I want to say thank you to my colleagues that were with me yesterday. Thank you also to NANCY PELOSI and the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus who visited San Diego; to BETO O'ROURKE and JOE KENNEDY, who were in Tonillo near the tent cities, near El Paso; to FRANK PALONE, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, and JERRY NADLER who were out in the New York-New Jersey area; and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and others who were in Florida.

Thank you to the folks in the Senate who also made a trip to McAllen, and to Senator MERKLEY, without whose help and support a few weeks ago in Brownsville, this issue would not nearly have had the same amount of attention.

This year marks 50 years since we lost two titans in American history, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy. Fifty-two years ago, in a famous speech that he gave in South Africa on their Day of Affirmation, Senator Robert F. Kennedy said back then: "Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change."

What we are asking is for this Congress to have the moral courage to listen to the American people and do right by these immigrants.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments and would ask him a question. The gentleman said he visited one of the shelters, and there were babies, babies a few months old.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Yes, we went into the shelter, and we visited two of them. At one of them, there were about four or five infants. They had something called an infants room. At least

two of those infants—one of them 8 months named Roger, the other one a year old named Leah—had been separated from their family members. They were being taken care of by staff.

But it was jarring to go into a room, to see young babies, and to realize that their parents or their family members were nowhere to be found, and that this is now standard government practice under the Trump administration.

Mr. GARAMENDI. So any age, literally, 4-, 5-, 6-month-old babies taken from their mothers?

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Absolutely. In fact, when we went into the second center, we asked them: “Well, who is held here?” And the administrator said: “Children between zero and 12 years, and the youngest one we have right now is 8 months.”

Mr. GARAMENDI. There is something incredibly immoral. I thank the gentleman for traveling to bring the reality back to the House of Representatives. It is really important, and I thank him very much for doing that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for joining us this evening. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GARAMENDI, once again, for stepping out and giving Members such as myself the opportunity to express our outrage at what is going on in this great Nation of ours. The gentleman has given me several opportunities to speak on issues pertaining to this country that are at the core of decisions and issues that we need to address, and his passion tonight is warranted.

Let me say, never in my life did I think that I would be on the floor of the United States House of Representatives calling for the President of the United States to stop tearing children away from their parents. Yet here I am.

Perhaps it is fitting that today is Juneteenth, a holiday to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is also a stark reminder that our country has a dark history of ripping children away from their parents.

African Americans know all too well that laws and policies can be twisted to evil ends. We know all too well the pain of having our children torn away from us and our families separated. It was a common event during slavery. We know all too well that state-sponsored psychological terror can have lasting effects on generations.

What is going on at our south border is evil. It is a deplorable policy by deplorable people, and it has to stop.

The president of the American Academy of Pediatrics has explained that the practice of ripping children away from their parents at the border is child abuse. Let me emphasize, one of the country's leading pediatricians has said that the United States is engaging in horrible actions that “disrupt the synapses and the neurological connec-

tions that are part of the developing brain” of these immigrant babies.

Who are we as a nation?

Now I have heard pundits defending evil by saying that the Trump administration is just following the law, just applying the law. I have heard other pundits wrongly say migrant parents are breaking the law and deserve to have their children taken away.

Attorney General Jeff Beauregard Sessions even trotted out the Bible to defend the family-separation policy, quoting a passage that says “to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained the government for his purposes.”

That is the same scripture that they used for slave-owners against their slaves, to defend their practice of holding human beings in bondage.

So let me answer Attorney General Beauregard Sessions and the Trump administration's goons: Legal does not mean moral.

Slavery was legal, but it was immoral. Jim Crow was legal, but it was immoral. Forced sterilization was legal, but it was immoral. Apartheid was legal, but it was immoral. Tearing children away from their parents at the border may be legal, but it is immoral.

The President could end this evil with one tweet. Congress can end it with a vote. Let us hope that reasonable people steer the ship of the state onto the right course before the seas of despair consume us all.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from California, let me just say that, as I thought about this, the gentleman has been in this body much longer than I and has seen people come and go, great people on both sides of the aisle that the gentleman has worked with. Well, let me just say, what has happened? What has happened to that side of the aisle? What is going on with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that they do not speak up? They all have children.

I would die for my triplets getting here if I was in a position where I thought that my life and my children's lives were in danger where I was. You had better believe I would come up here and try to get into this Nation. We would all do that for our children.

Yet these people are criminals? It baffles the mind.

I know that time is fleeting, but I have seen the GOP come up with a new nonprofit through this whole endeavor. They have created a new nonprofit, sir. It is called “Cage the Children.”

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman speaks about the laws and about the potential, and every member of the Democratic Caucus has now signed on to be a coauthor of the legislation, Keep the Families Together Act. It would end immediately the separation of families that has now taken 2,300 children away from their parents.

Mr. Speaker, joining us tonight is the Representative from the city of Las Vegas, Nevada. I thank him for joining

us and yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN).

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for organizing this hour to discuss a humanitarian issue that we are confronted with right now here in the United States of America. I thank him for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I just came back from the border this morning, and I am heartbroken. I am emotionally drained, and I am saddened for this country, the United States of America. Who would have ever thought, in the greatest, most powerful, richest country in the world, that we would be tearing kids apart from their mother and their father and putting them in cages?

□ 2000

That is not the America that I know. I came to this country when I was 8 years old. I crossed that same border that I visited. My parents came here in pursuit of the American Dream. They came here because they knew if they worked hard and sacrificed that they would have a shot at the American Dream.

That is all these kids and these families want, and just being there at the border and looking at those mothers straight in the eyes and them looking back at you with watery eyes, asking for help, this is not a Republican or Democrat issue. This is a humanitarian issue. This is about the future of America. This is about humanity. This is about kids. And it hurts me to see that in the United States of America we are putting these same kids in cages.

We made a call to the President to rescind this zero tolerance policy because we want to keep these families together. These are not criminals. These are innocent families who are leaving persecution, who are trying to achieve a better life for their kids.

Any family, any parent in the country or anywhere else seeking a better life for their kids would do everything and anything to pursue a better life for their kids.

So I am disappointed in our President. I am disappointed in my colleagues who refuse to speak up when we are seeing these images on TV of children in cages being treated like animals. That is not the America that I know. That is not the America that gave me and my family an opportunity to succeed.

So, Mr. Speaker, I got emotional yesterday being there at the border and remembering very vividly those moments when my family crossed the border. I remember it as if it was just yesterday. And I couldn't help but think that if somebody were to take me away from my father and mother at that precise moment, what would I do? Who would I trust? Where would I go? I couldn't even speak a word of English. I was 8 years old. I needed that love and those hugs from my mother and my father.

So today I came back and I made a promise that I would fight for these

families, that I would fight for these kids, that I would fight for the future of America; the principles and the values that make this country strong. That is the reason why I ran for office in the first place. That is the reason why we are serving in office in the first place.

So I am here to call on the President to rescind the zero tolerance policy that is cruel, inhumane, and un-American.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. KIHUEN, I don't want you to stop. I want you to stay strong. I want your voice to be heard. I want your experiences to be known.

Eight years old, coming to America with your parents. In this room, there are very few who would share such an experience, who could understand first the excitement of being in America, and then the potential terror of being taken from your parents.

I want you to make your voice heard because it is the voice of experience. It is the voice of a recent family coming to America.

So as we go through these days, please come to the floor, tell the experience again, not only of your family, but also what you saw in those shelters, in those cages.

Will the gentleman do that?

Mr. KIHUEN. I will.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I am quite certain that across this country, every one of the 430-some Members of Congress saw this photo. Probably most have heard the audio recording of young children just like this calling out for their mommy or daddy, papa.

I suspect many of us have seen the pictures of young children, 3, 4, 5 with a Sharpie telephone number on their chest so that if somehow they were separated, there would be someone to contact.

I am certain that every Member, 430-plus of us, plus the Senate, that was a child, that at some point in their life, when they were young, 3, 4, 5 years of age, they were separated from their parent. And I am absolutely certain that each one of us knows the terror of that moment.

And most of us are now parents. Most of us are now parents, and we know the terror of a child who has disappeared, wandered off.

I don't believe there is one of us that knows the terror of this mother whose child was taken away by American police; the awesome power of this government imposed upon that young woman, a mother, taken from her child.

Is there one of us? Is there one of us that has endured that police power?

Okay. I get emotional about this because I am a parent.

No. I don't know the terror of the police state taking my child away. I don't know that. But I know the terror of that child who has wandered off.

This is a policy that has been imposed upon parents and their children by the President. This is not a law that requires this kind of cruelty. There is

no such law that requires this kind of cruelty. There is no law that requires the American government to cage children. There is no law that requires this. This is the policy of the President of the United States. This is his policy. Zero tolerance. His policy that cages children as though they were animals. His policy that puts the fear into a child.

It is the President's policy, not the law, that caused this young child to cry out for her mother and for the police to stand over her.

The Attorney General says it is the law. It is not the law. It is his policy, together with the President's policy, that has created this humanitarian crisis in the United States of America. It must end.

Martin Luther King—who was killed, murdered, assassinated 50 years ago—from the Birmingham jail spoke about justice and the law in his letter from the Birmingham jail.

So, Mr. Attorney General Beauregard Sessions, listen to what he had to say. He said: "A just law is a manmade code that squares with the moral law or the law of God."

He went on to argue: "An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law."

And how should justice be defined? He answered this way: "Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust."

Mr. Attorney General, by the words of Martin Luther King, your defense of what you say is the law is unjust, it is immoral, and it is not the law of God.

My wife, Patty, has what she calls cradle songs, songs that she sung to our children as they were young and growing.

One of those was written by Bobby Dylan, *Blowin' in the Wind*:

Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head

Pretending that he just doesn't see?

Yes, and how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?

And, Mr. President and Mr. Attorney General, the opening line of that song is this:

How many roads must a man walk down
Before you call him a man?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

SUCCESS OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to bring good news. Good news that often in this 24/7 media cycle goes unnoticed, unremarked.

□ 2015

It is the good news of legislation that works. It is the good news that creates a growing and rising tide of economic prosperity for all families, including, most importantly, the children of families who rely on their parents' income in a growing economy.

I am here tonight to talk about the unheralded success of something called the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Rarely has one piece of legislation been so successful so quickly, and rarely have so many, at least on one side of the aisle, predicted its success with so much accuracy.

We are now, according to a number of analysts, including the Atlanta Federal Reserve, set to grow at over 4 percent the next quarter. Consider that over the last decade, if not longer, we have barely been able to scratch the surface at 2 percent GDP growth.

Now, after the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, after more investment in America, after more repatriation of profits coming home to invest, after labor and capital coming together because our Tax Code now incentivizes labor and capital to come together, we are seeing wages going up.

We are seeing more capital investment. We are seeing bigger paychecks. We are seeing economic growth over 4 percent. We are seeing utility companies offer rebates under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act because they have to pass through the savings they got from tax reform to customers.

It is remarkable how so many of our friends in the fourth estate seem to have forgotten all the warnings about tax reform and tax relief. Oh, I remember it well, Mr. Speaker. Last fall, last winter: This is going to be crumbs. It is going to be Armageddon. It is going to be a disaster if we pass the greatest tax reform in over 3 decades.

Now, some of us on the other side of the aisle, the Republican side of the aisle, said: "Wait a minute." Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon under Calvin Coolidge in the 1920s first embarked on increasing the return for labor for capital investment, for economic growth. What happened in the Roaring Twenties? It led to a balanced budget. Then, of course, in the 1960s—and this is what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem to forget—old-school Democrats like John F. Kennedy went to The Economic Club of New York in 1962 and said:

What this economy needs in 1962 to break out of the doldrums is a tax cut.

JFK said in that famous speech: "Our practical choice is not between a tax-cut deficit and a budgetary surplus. It is between two kinds of deficits: a